

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for conducting the telephone interview on March 30, 2005 regarding the language of claims 1 and 9.

Claims 1 and 2 have been objected to as containing a minor error and a formalistic concern, respectively. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended so as to address these objections. As a result, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 9 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10-201206. Claims 2 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-201206 in view of Yamada (JP 06-243377). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-201206 in view of Yamada and further in view of Blume (US 6,707,361). Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-201206 in view of Yamada and further in view of Sakata (JP 06-236807).

Claims 7 and 8 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended so as to clarify the claimed invention. Claims 2, 5-8, 10 and 11 have been amended so as to correspond with the amendments to claims 1 and 9.

It is submitted that the above-mentioned rejections are not applicable to the amended claims for the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 9 are patentable over JP 10-201206, since each of these claims recites, in part, an arc-shaped permanent magnet having a pair of end portions and a middle portion therebetween in a thrust direction, wherein the end portions fit along an inner surface of a soft-magnetic frame, and the middle portion has a pair of recessed sections that are recessed on outer middle portion regions of the middle portion with respect to the end portions. JP 10-201206 fails to disclose or suggest the arc-shaped permanent magnet having the recessed sections as recited in claims 1 and 9.

JP 10-201206 discloses a small motor 10 having a frame 54 and a pair of arc-shaped permanent magnets 12 located in the frame 54. The outer surfaces of the magnets 12 each have a

pair of flat portions 14 extending completely across the outer surface of the magnets 12 in the thrust direction (direction 10 in Figure 1(b)). (See abstract and Figures 1(a)-2(e), 5 and 6). It is apparent that since the flat portions 14 extend completely across the outer surface of the magnets 12 in the direction 10, the magnets 12 do not have a pair of end portions in the direction 10 that fit along an inner surface of the frame 54 and a middle portion having a pair of recessed sections that are recessed on outer middle portion regions of the middle portion with respect to the end portions. As a result, JP 10-201206 fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1 and 9.

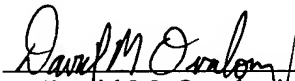
As for (1) Yamada, (2) Blume, and (3) Sakata, these references are relied upon in the rejections as disclosing (1) a pair of arc-shaped magnets held in place by springs, (2) a magnet molded of rare earth iron based melt-spun flakes and a binder, and (3) an arc-shaped magnet having a thickness of 0.1 mm or larger and less than 1.0 mm, respectively. However, none of these references discloses or suggests the above-discussed features of claims 1 and 9.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1-11 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejections. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1-11. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-11 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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